

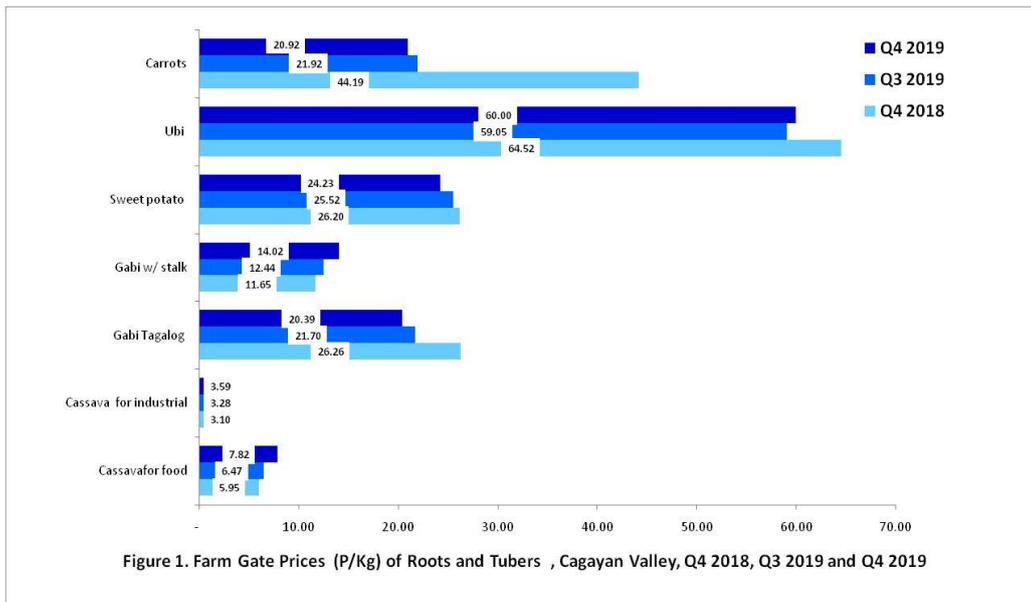


# SPECIAL RELEASE

## Prices of roots and tubers in Q4 2019 on opposing trends

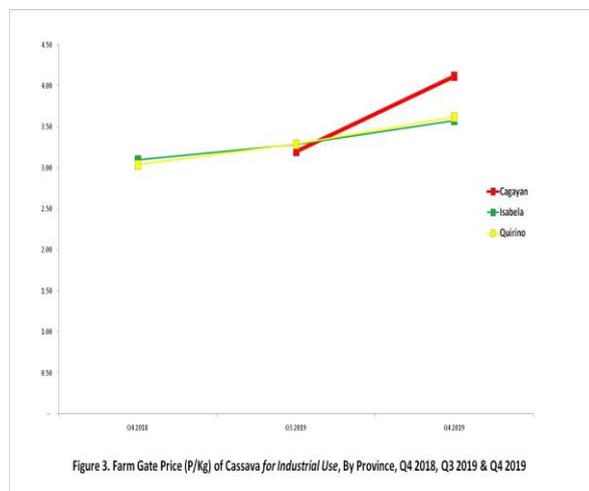
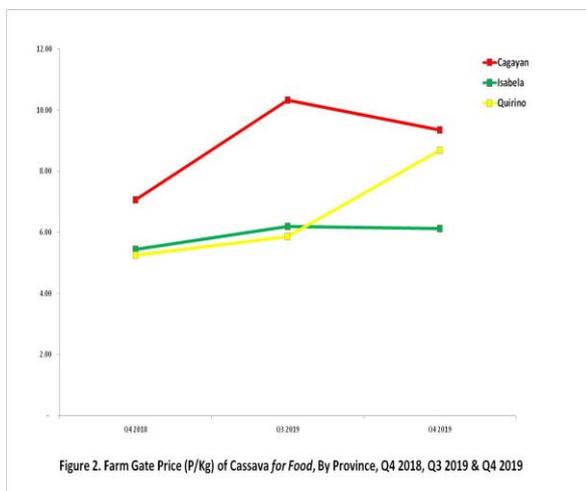
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During the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2019 (Q4 2019), there were seven commodities of root crops and tubers transacted in the different trading centers of the region. Among those traded, three commodities were sold at higher prices compared to the last quarter in 2018 (Q4 2018) while four behaved otherwise. Compared with the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 (Q3 2019), four commodities were sold in Q4 2019 above the prices registered in Q3 2019 while three commodities posted prices below Q3 2019.



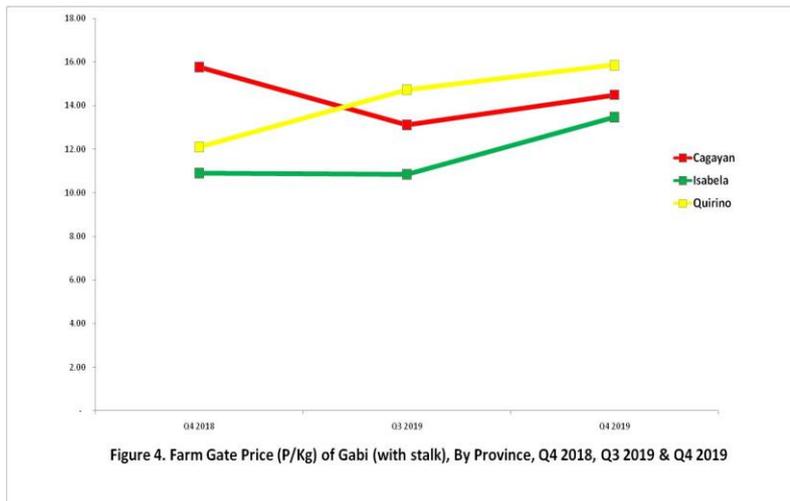
In general, almost all commodities classified under roots and tubers produced and traded in the region posted diverse movements of prices in Q4 2019 compared with the recorded prices in Q4 2018 and / or Q3 2019. Specifically, cassava (fresh tubers) *sold for food* and *for industrial use* was sold at a higher price in Q4 2019 compared to last year (Q4 2019) and last quarter (Q3 2019). Farm gate prices of the cassava *sold for food* in Q4 2019 at 7.82 pesos per kilo is up by 31.4 percent from last year level of 5.95 and 20.9 percent higher than Q3 2019 price marked at 6.47 per kilo. For cassava *sold for industrial use*, the current price at 3.59 pesos per kilo is higher by 15.8 percent from last year’s farm gate price of 3.10 pesos and up by 9.5 percent over the Q3 2019 price tagged at 3.28 pesos per kilo. Gabi (with stalk) also appreciated in Q4 2019 with its price of 14.02 pesos per kilo, higher by 20.3 percent from last year’s level of 11.65 pesos per kilo and up by 12.7 percent from last

quarter's price estimate of 12.44 pesos per kilo. These three commodities posted an increasing price trend since October of last year. On the opposite trends, average farm gate prices collected in Q4 2019 for gabi (tagalog), sweet potato and carrots went down compared to the two periods in review. A kilo of gabi (tagalong) was traded in Q4 2019 at 20.39 pesos, down by 22.4 percent from last year's price of 26.26 pesos and trimmed by 6.0 percent from Q3 2019 price of 21.70 pesos per kilo. Similarly, sweet potato traded in Q4 2019 at 24.23 pesos per kilo was slashed by 7.6 percent from Q4 2019 price record of 26.20 and down by 5.1 percent from Q3 2019 price report of 25.52 pesos per kilo. Notably, carrots' price gathered in Q4 2019 is more than fifty percent below the price posted in Q4 2018. The recorded price in Q4 2019 at 20.92 pesos was way below the price level of 44.19 pesos per kilo last year, a whopping 52.7 percent decrease while only a bit lower from its price registered in Q3 2019 at 21.92 pesos per kilo or 4.6 percent decrement. For ubi root crop, farm gate price in Q4 2019 posted a decrease versus last year by 7.0 percent but exceeded its price report last quarter by 1.6 percent.



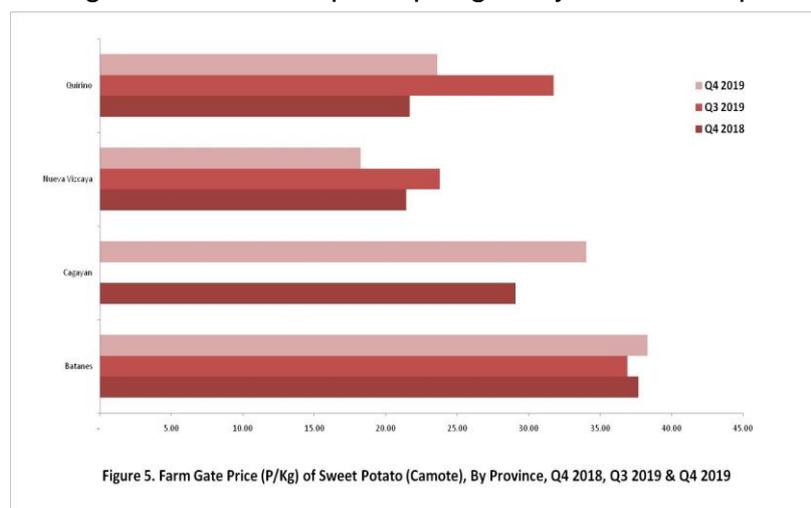
As per market basket of the region and considering the significant production of cassava, the provinces that produced and traded in bulk the commodity either *for food* or *for industrial purposes* are Cagayan, Isabela and Quirino. As shown, prices for Q4 2019 of the three provinces (both *for food* and *for industrial purposes*) followed the same increasing price trend for the quarterly price averages as against last year while only Quirino province had price increase against last quarter for cassava sold *for food*. Cassava *for food* farm gate price in Cagayan province was sold at a higher price compared in the other two provinces and this holds true for cassava sold *for industrial purposes* in Q4 2019. Moreover, In Q4 2018 and Q3 2019, prices of cassava *for food* in the provinces of Isabela and Quirino were almost at the same level but price of the same shoot up in Q4 2019 in the province of Quirino while Isabela province's price remained almost steady. In the case of cassava sold *for industrial use*, an almost identical price was noted in the provinces of Isabela and Quirino all throughout the quarters while price in Cagayan province of same commodity which was only monitored for two quarters rose from Q3 2019 price it recorded lower than the other two provinces farm gate prices. Specifically, in the case of cassava *for industrial purposes*, all growers in the cassava sector selling their produce for industrial use were able to gain due to higher price in Q4 2019 compared to same quarter in 2018 and Q3 2019.

Gabi (with stalk) where farm gate prices appreciated in Q4 2019 was also traded in the same provinces mentioned above. The regional average increase in farm gate price was contributed by increments in prices reported by Isabela and Quirino where farm gate prices ascended from last year's level and from Q3 2019 report. On the other hand, Cagayan province where farm gate price record in Q4 2019 moved up a bit from Q3 2019 record was not enough to go beyond the level it posted a year ago. It must be noted further that the commodity's farm gate price in Q4 2019 was traded



at a higher price in Quirino at almost sixteen pesos per kilo while it was sold at a lower price in Isabela at more than twelve pesos per kilo. Further, price ranges established in Q4 2018 and Q3 2019 constricted in Q4 2019 record bringing closer price ranges in Q4 2019 between thirteen pesos to sixteen pesos per kilo of gabi (with stalk) sold in the last quarter of 2019.

Sweet Potato commonly known as camote in the region is produced in large quantities in the provinces of Batanes, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino. Consequently, its farm gate prices were monitored and reported in these provinces. As shown, prices in Batanes and Cagayan for Q4 2019 which is above the prices reported in the other two provinces posted increases over its recorded farm gate prices a year ago. Specifically, farm gate price in Cagayan at more than thirty five pesos in Q4 2019 is way above its reported price a year ago at less than thirty pesos while the latest farm gate price in Batanes inched up slightly from its price record in Q4 2019 and Q3 2019. Moreover, price record in Quirino in Q4 2019 also move upward from its record a year ago but the latest price plunged by almost ten pesos from its monitored farm gate price in Q3 2019. Only the price in Nueva Vizcaya which was observed as the lowest price report in Q4 2019, displayed inverse situation as it slid down versus last year and Q3 2019. There were no trading of the commodity in Cagayan province during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019.



Other commodities under roots and tubers were monitored in provinces where significant production and trading was reported. These includes gabi tagalog (for panigang) largely produced and traded in Cagayan province, ubi roots which is commonly produced and traded in the province of Batanes and carrots which is the golden fruit vegetable of Nueva Vizcaya and widely traded in wholesale trading centers in the province.



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//GMB / JCB

## **TECHNICAL NOTES**

The Farm Prices Survey (FPS) is a nationwide household-based survey designed to generate estimates of farm gate or producers' prices. It contains information on prices received by producers at the first point of sale.

The outputs of the Farm Prices Survey are used in the periodic valuation of the outputs produced by the agricultural sector. Similarly, these are inputs to the development of price indices to measure the purchasing power of growers of selected agricultural products. Maintenance of farm gate prices will likewise provide needed inputs a) to analyze trends and variations in prices; b) forecasting future supply, demand and prices of agricultural commodities; c) to assist policy makers in the formulation, implementation and administration of economic programs, and d) to guide farmers/raisers in their decision making relative to their agricultural activities geared towards improvement of their profitability.

The survey is conducted during the last 10 days of the month in all the provinces of the country covering days 1 to 30 of the reporting month. Each province has a basket of FPS commodities.

The following activities are undertaken to monitor and sustain quality of data collected for Farm Prices Survey (FPS):

- consistency check through review of entries relative to the provincial FPS basket and trading matrix; and
- non-sampling errors are monitored and minimized by reviewing PO forms/questionnaires.

Source: <https://psa.gov.ph>